



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/716,718	11/19/2003	Richard C. Ferri	POU920030185US1	6317
7590	01/13/2006			
Andrew J. Wojnicki, Jr. Intellectual Property Law IBM Corporation, MS P386 2455 South Road Poughkeepsie, NY 12601			EXAMINER MARSH, STEVEN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3632	
DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/716,718

Applicant(s)

FERRI ET AL.

Examiner

Steven M. Marsh

Art Unit

3632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 October 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                       | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This is the fourth office action for U.S. Application 10/716,718 for a Supporting Adapter for Portable Computer system filed by Richard C. Ferri et al. on November 19, 2003. Claims 1-20 are pending.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings were received on October 19, 2005. These drawings are not acceptable. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because Applicant describes figure 1C as a partial sectional view through line C-C of figure 1B. However, C-C isn't a line in figure 1B. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1, 2, 7-15, 19, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,282,084 B1 to Goerdt et al. Clark et al. discloses an adapter with a support plate (bottom of 24) that has a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface. There is a connector provided from the bottom surface adapted to mount the support plate to a support stand (at 22) and a plurality of latches (38) provided from the top surface, operable to secure a portable

Art Unit: 3632

computing device to the support plate. The connector has a threaded stud (the screws that extend through 22 and the bottom of the plate). The latches can engage a keyhole in a bottom surface of a computing device and there is at least one pivot (52). The support plate has sidewalls (sides and back of 24, extending from the bottom) extending upwardly from the top surface that are dimensioned such that when the adapter is attached to a portable computing device, the sidewalls do not obstruct elements of the portable computing device normally available for use.

There is a plurality of interior electrical connectors and a plurality of exterior electrical connectors coupled to the interior electrical connectors, whereby the exterior electrical connectors are adapted to mate with a plurality of corresponding cables, thereby connecting the electrical connectors of the portable computing device to the corresponding cables. The adapter can also function as a port replicator or a docking station. There is also a connector (40) provided from the side surface that is adapted to removably mount the support plate to a cooperating support.

Clark et al. does not disclose the adapter being connected to a portable computing device with openings that receive latches on the adapter. Goerdts et al. discloses an assembly that includes a portable computing device (12) and an adapter (16) engageably mounted to the computing device. The computing device includes cooperating openings (48) and the adapter includes a support plate with a top surface and a bottom surface opposite the top surface, and latches (24 and 44) provided from the top surface that engage the openings in the computing device to secure the computing device to the top surface of the support plate. The openings taught by

Art Unit: 3632

Goerdts et al. are not at the bottom of the computing device, but the location of the openings is a matter of engineering preference that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention, to have provided a portable computing device with openings to receive latches of the adapter as taught by Goerdts et al., as the computing device of Clark et al., for the purpose of providing a means for preventing the computing device from becoming accidentally dislodged from the adapter.

Claims 3-6 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark et al. in view of Goerdts et al., and in further view of Ford. Clark et al. in view of Goerdts et al. does not disclose a tripod mounted to connector of the adapter. Clark et al. does disclose a stand (14) attached to the connector and the top surface of the plate faces away from the stand. Ford discloses the use of a photography tripod (94) as a stand for mounting a housing. The stand is mounted to the bottom of the housing (at 98) by a threaded connector and the tripod allows for the legs to be folded. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have provided a tripod as the stand for the device taught by Clark et al. in view of Goerdts et al., as taught by Ford, for the purpose of providing a stand that folds. Clark et al. in view of Goerdts et al., and in further view of Ford does not specifically disclose threaded openings for receiving the threaded screws. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention to have

provided threaded openings in the bottom of the plate to receive the threaded screws to provide a secure connection, as a matter of engineering preference.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed October 14, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to Applicant's argument that Clark lacks certain claimed features, Applicant is directed to the rejection above. Applicant argues that a bracket cannot be a latch. However, if a latch is "any of various devices in which mating mechanical parts engage to fasten" and the "bracket" taught by Goerdt engages with another part (an opening) to fasten, it operates as a latch. Applicant also argues that the latch taught by Goerdt is not provided from the top surface. However, the latch does extend past the top surface, which is what Applicant's appears to do. Applicant notes that the latch is affixed to a sidewall, but Applicant's latch doesn't appear to be affixed to the top surface, either. Applicant also argues that Ford does not disclose a threaded stud for engagement with a threaded opening, but as noted in the action, providing threads in the opening taught by Ford would be a matter of engineering preference that would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the present invention.

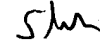
### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

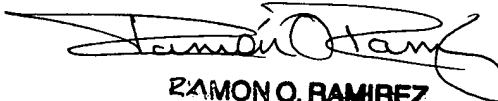
Art Unit: 3632

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Steven Marsh whose telephone number is (571) 272-6819. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30 PM. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3600. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

  
Steven M. Marsh

January 5, 2005

  
**RAMON O. RAMIREZ**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**